Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 L-03 SS-20

NSC-10 SPC-03 DRC-01 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1237

CONFIDENTIAL GUATEMALA 5349

E.O.11652: GDS TAGS: ETRN, GT

SUBJECT: OCEAN SHIPPING: FLOMERCA REACTION TO DELTA VISIT

REF: GUATEMALA 5313

- 1. EMBOFF CALLED ON FLOMERCA GENERAL MANAGER MIRON ASCERTAIN REACTION DELTA VISIT AND DETERMINE WHETHER FLOMERCA OFFICIALS HAD PURPOSELY AVOIDED SCHEDULED LUNCHEON (REFTEL). SINCE MIRON DID NOT CONTRADICT IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY EMBOFF THAT FLOMERCA OFFICIALS HAD MET WITH DELTA (MIRON IN FACT WENT SO FAR AS TO RESPOND TO QUESTION ABOUT SUBSTANCE OF CONVERSATION BY SAYING IT WAS "SOCIAL"), WE ASSUME THAT THE NON-SHOW WAS ON PURPOSE.
- 2. AS TO WHY FLOMERCA AVOIDED DELTA, IT MAY BE THAT MIRON IS TRYING TO SHORE UP HIS LEGAL FLANKS IN LIGHT HIS UNDERSTANDING OUR REGULATIONS. HE STRESSED TO EMBOFF THAT FLOMERCA DOES NOT HAVE ROYALTY ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE TWO LINES IT HAS AUTHORIZED TO SERVICE THE US-CCT AND PAN AMERICAN MAIL. RECOGNIZING THAT FMC WOULD NOT ALLOW ROYALTY ARRANGEMENTS (SINCE IT HAD DISALLOWED CCT ARRANGEMENT) HE TURNED TO CONCEPT OF "ASSOCIATION" WITH FOREIGN LINES. HE CLAIMED FMC HAD ALREADY APPROVED SUCH AN "ASSOCIATION" WITH PAN AMERICAN MAIL AND THAT, ACCORDINGLY, HE HAS PREPARED SIMILAR CONTRACT FOR CCT, WHICH WILL BE SIGNED NOV. 12.

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3. MIRON OBVIOUSLY PLANS TO PRESENT SUCH APPROVED "ASSOCIA-

TIONS" TO DELTA AS ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE FOR HE RESPONDED TO DIRECT QUESTIONING BY SAYING "ASSOCIATION" WITH DELTA MIGHT LEAVE GULF ROUTES TO DELTA AND NEW YORK TO FLOMERCA. THE CONCEPT GOES BEYOND MERELY APPORTIONING ROUTES, HOWEVER, MIRON NOTED THAT FLOMERCA NETS ABOUT \$400,000 ANNUALLY FROM ITS NEW ORLEANS AND HOUSTON SERVICES, BUT THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY SETTLE FOR LESS FROM AN "ASSOCIATION" SINCE IT WOULD BE "WITHOUT RISK". PRESUMABLY THUS THE ASSOCIATION CONCEPT PERMITS FLOMERCA TO SHARE IN THE PROFITS OF THE ASSOCIATED LINES.

- 4. MIRON ALSO QUITE OBVIOUSLY WOULD LIKE TO SEE ENTIRE PROBLEM GO AWAY FOR HE REPEATEDLY RETURNED TO THE THEME THAT THERE ISN'T ENOUGH BUSINESS ON THE GUATEMALAN-US ROUTES TO SUSTAIN THE THREE OPERATING LINES PLUS DELTA. HE RECOGNIZES, HOWEVER, THAT IT WON'T GO AWAY AND THUS THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION CONCEPT HOPES TO PREVENT DELTA FROM ATTACKING HIM ON LEGALISMS BEFORE THE FCM.
- 5. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT PROBLEM OF SHIPPING DISCRIMINATION BROADER THAN MERE LEGALISM. HOWEVER, SINCE MIRON'S STRATEGY BEING FORMULATED BY US MARITIME LAWYERS, DETAILED ARGUMENT SEEMED FRUITLESS. EMBASSY ACCORDINGLY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE, INCLUDING WHETHER FLOMERCA'S FMC APPROVED "ASSOCIATION" WITH PAN AMERICAN MAIL CONSTITUTES A PRECEDENT THAT UNDERMINES DELTA'S DEMANDS FOR ACCESS TO GUATEMALAN MARKET WITHOUT PAYING FOR SUCH ACCESS. DREYFUSS

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